

VIRGINIA'S ASSIGN-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Program Progress...

Currently, there are 20 localities implementing the program and nine are active with the assignment of probationers to road sections. The 11 that were not active by the end of the year are either assigning probationers to sections of highway in January 2007 or still in the planning stages to hire a Litter Control Officer to maintain the program. The localities that are attempting to hire a Litter Control Officer, for the most, should be fully implementing the program by spring, 2007.



The Assign-A-Highway Program has had many great changes occur within the past year. After the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, Inc. received a grant from VA Department of Environmental Quality and the Litter Prevention and Recycling Fund Advisory Board to hire a coordinator for the program, the implementing localities have more than quadrupled by the end of this year. Also, the Virginia Department of Transportation has provided funding to maintain a coordinator for the program. Much of the program's success is due to the development of a User's Implementation Manual and an Assign-A-Highway website. In 2003, there were only three localities implementing this new litter prevention program and continued to be only three localities until early 2006. In December, the program total reached an outstanding level of 20 localities implementing the program. The program is mostly concentrated in southwest Virginia but has now spread randomly across the state to the Atlantic Ocean.

**U p p e r
Tennessee River
Roundtable, Inc.**

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trict Commission

Program Firsts...

This past year has also seen the implementation of the program in its first city. The City of Norton is the first in the commonwealth to adopt the Assign-A-Highway program. Even though Norton is the smallest city in Virginia, they will be the model for other larger cities throughout the state for implementing in urban areas. Norton City Council is very enthusiastic about having the program and also being the model for others throughout the state.

Another first, Assign-A-Highway has its first regional program on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The Northern Neck Planning District Commission has hired a regional litter control coordinator for all four of its counties which have adopted the resolutions for the program. This person will be in charge of facilitating the program in each county and cooperating with members from each locality to maintain proper performance.

Future Programs...

Currently, there are approximately eight localities in the discussion stages of the implementing Assign-A-Highway. Many of the localities are approaching local planning commissions and local governing boards about the subject and so far the response has been positive. Those localities include: Bedford County, King William County, Chesterfield County, Buckingham County, and the George Washington Regional Commission. The only exception is Henrico County. Under supervision of Keep Henrico Beautiful coordinator, Henrico County is the only pilot program running at this time. After utilizing the program for some time now, the upcoming months should determine if Henrico will implement the program completely.

Assign-A-Highway Awards...



On November 2, 2006, the Assign-A-Highway program received an award for Best Local Anti-Litter Practice by Scenic Virginia, Inc. at its Fourth Annual Scenic Awards Luncheon in Richmond, Virginia. Scenic Virginia, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization that exists to preserve, protect, and enhance the scenic beauty of the Commonwealth. Accepting the award was Frank Kilgore, program founder, and Bobby Justus, Assign-A-Highway Coordinator.

Upcoming Projects...

Beginning January 01, 2007, the Assign-A-Highway Coordinator will be gathering data for a six month long litter study. The study will look at how effective the program is at reducing roadside litter in three counties. Data collection will consist of the number of bags collected at the end of each month on two sections of highway. Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise Counties have volunteered to collect and report data each month on a primary and secondary section of highway in their respective locality. To get a true baseline number of bags, these sections have not been previously assigned to a probationer. On June 30, 2007, when data collection ceases, we will be able to determine if the program is reducing, maintaining, or increasing roadside litter. The original hypothesis is that Assign-A-Highway does reduce roadside litter.

A DVD is in the works! Other than an informative presentation, is there a better way to advertise and explain how the program works? Yes. The DVD will give a good visual description on how to implement the Assign-A-Highway program, step by step. The DVD will take the viewer through each of the steps for implementing and have commentary from Frank Kilgore, Program Founder, as well as other supporters of the program. Expected completion will be February, 2007.

Assign-A-Highway Results...

Results from the program have made a noticeable dent in reducing roadside litter in Virginia. Every month since July, 2006, data has been collected by the coordinator on the number of probationers utilized, number of miles cleaned, number of bags collected, and number of hours worked. After the data is reported, the coordinator calculates each locality's tons, percent of roads covered in the locality, and the locality cost savings. This reporting and calculating has been very helpful for the localities when reporting to their local government on the success of Assign-A-Highway. (See Table 1)

Table 1.

County/City	Probationers	Miles	Bags Collected	Tons	Cost Savings
Buchanan Co.	577	586	4,097	206.92	\$81,964.83
Dickenson Co.	438	881	17,228	870.13	\$62,057.50
Wise County	308	460	2,271	114.69	\$5,881.30
Russell County	1383	?	4,017	202.88	\$23,221.36
Tazewell County	983	?	4,077	205.90	\$17,347.78
Giles County	170	174	1,632	82.42	\$5,067.60
Hanover County	17	68	107	5.40	\$275.53
Accomack Co.	1	2	45	0.41	\$41.20
<i>Totals</i>	3877	2171	33,474	1688.75	\$195,857.10

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Special thanks to...

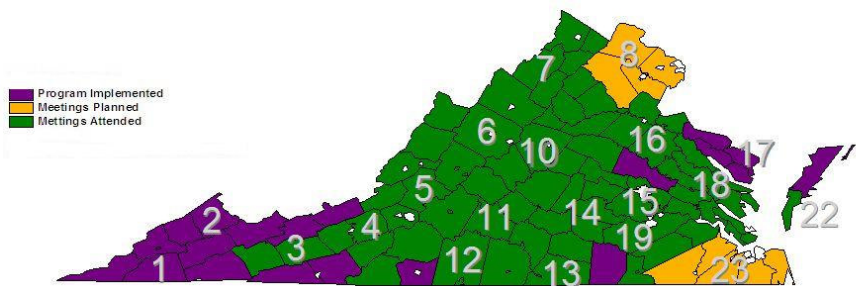
Virginia Litter Prevention and Recycling Fund Advisory Board, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Department of Transportation, Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, Inc., Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission, the Virginia Resource Conservation and Development Association, and representatives from all of the localities for all of their support, guidance, and helping hands.

Bobby Justus, Assign-A-Highway Coordinator

Assign-A-Highway Across the State...

There are 20 localities implementing the Assign-A-Highway Program across the state of Virginia. There have been 18 informational presentations given to Planning District Commissions and several single locality meetings to discuss how to implement the program.

Assign-A-Highway Program



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